

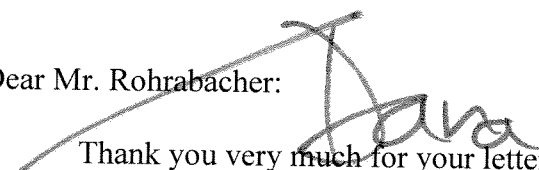
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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August 1, 2007

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Rohrabacher:

Thank you very much for your letter requesting a hearing on issues associated with NASA's implementation of the Near-Earth Object (NEO) Survey Act. I share your view that the tracking and cataloging of potentially dangerous NEOs is a worthwhile endeavor. Focusing attention on the need to detect and characterize NEOs is something that the Science and Technology Committee has supported on a bipartisan basis for almost two decades, and you have certainly been a leader in that effort.

The Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics had already been making plans for a hearing on NEOs when your letter was received, and we will make every effort to ensure that the issues raised in your letter are addressed at the hearing. At my request, Committee staff were prepared to accelerate the planning for the hearing to enable it to be held prior to the August district work period, but your staff indicated that you would prefer to wait until after the House reconvenes to hold the hearing. The fall hearing schedule has not yet been finalized, but we will inform your office as soon as a date for the NEO hearing has been determined.

Sincerely,

  
MARK UDALL

Chairman

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics